

REMARKS

The time for response to the Office Action of January 24, 2006, was previously April 24, 2006. Applicants are filing this response on or before July 24, 2006, with a request for a three-month extension of time. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this response is timely filed. If any additional fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to Deposit Account No. 19-0365.

Claims 1-56 are pending in the application. Claims 1-26 and 28-40 have been allowed. Claim 27 has been rejected. Claims 41-56 were withdrawn by the Examiner. Applicants have canceled claims 55 and 56. Claims 1, 27 and 42-54 have been amended. Applicants reserve their right to file divisional applications on the subject matter that has been subject to restriction and continuation applications on the subject matter that has been deleted out of all currently amended claims.

No new matter has been added with the filing of this amendment. In view of the amendments and remarks below, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejections of record, and issuance of Notice of Allowance.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are filing references via a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and PTO/SB/21 form, to which applicants respectfully request the entry of said references into the record.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 Second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected Claims 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

In response to the rejection, applicants have amended claim 27 to include a period at the end of the sentence. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of these rejections under §112, second paragraph.

Amendment of Claim 1

Applicants have amended claim 1 to delete lines 19-21.

Rejoinder of Restriction Groups Issue

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Applicants, however, respectfully suggest that methods of treating inflammatory diseases (Group III, claims 42-54) and methods of treating immunomodulatory diseases (Group IV, claims 42-54) depend on the methods of modulating the CB₂ receptor (Group II, claim 41). For this reason applicants respectfully suggest that Groups II, III and IV should be rejoined with elected Group I.

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the above response, applicants have sufficiently addressed the Examiner's rejections and that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

If any additional fees are determined to be due by this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct such fees from **Account No. 19-0365**.

If for any reason the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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